UNDP report on hunger in India

2051. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to UN Development Programme report, India is the world's most hungry nation; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Report for 2003 *inter alia* states that India is home to the largest number of hungry people at 233 million, while Sub-Saharan Africa has 183 million, China 119 million, the rest of East Asia and the Pacific 74 million, Latin America 55 million and the Arab States 32 million. However, in South Asia one person in every four goes hungry, and in Sub-Saharan Africa this share is as high as one in three.

Moreover, UNDP's HDR, 2003 itself recognises that poverty has been dramatically reduced in India. It has commended India for making serious efforts towards achieving economic growth and reduction of poverty in the country which would contribute significantly, in turn, to achieve the first Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in the world by 2015.

Accidents on National Highways

2052. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent road accidents especially on National Highways;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make additional financial allocations to maintain and widen the National Highways in order to avert accidents;

(c) if so, the details of proposals of Government alongwith financial allocations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?